

THE GATEWAY

volume C number 28 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, january 14, 2010

Referendum to decide fate of proposed health and wellness facility

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor

The University of Alberta is looking to improve the physical, mental, and spiritual health of its staff and students with a new facility, pending approval in a referendum.

On Tuesday night, Students' Council approved the principles of a question that will be posited to the student body in March.

Both undergraduate and graduate students will vote to decide if they want to commit future students to a \$29 per year fee that would pay for the development of the Physical Activity and Wellness Centre.

The four-level building would be erected at the corner of 87 Avenue and 114 Street, and would include an indoor student space known as the "socialstreet," along the Butterdome's east end.

"We've committed there to be a tremendous amount of student space for clubs, hangouts, for food service, etc. So what we've really tried to do is create the facility so that, on one hand, it's going to serve the health and wellness needs of the University, and on the other hand is very much seen as a place for student engagement," said Mike Mahon, the Physical Education and Recreation faculty's outgoing dean.

The initiative is similar to the Physical Activity Complex idea that

was defeated in referendum in March 2006.

Students' Union Vice President (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman explained that consultation with students has led to dramatic alterations on the PAC proposal.

"The part that we really liked was the emphasis on student governance that we see reflected in the [PAW] principles quite well," he said.

"If you pay for something, you want to be able to spend your money in a way that you see fit. That's a big

difference [from] the referendum question that went forward in 2005/06."

Details of governance are still being worked out, but it's been agreed that students would have a majority say in PAW's administration. Students would have paid \$40 per year for the PAC, but wouldn't have been able to run it.

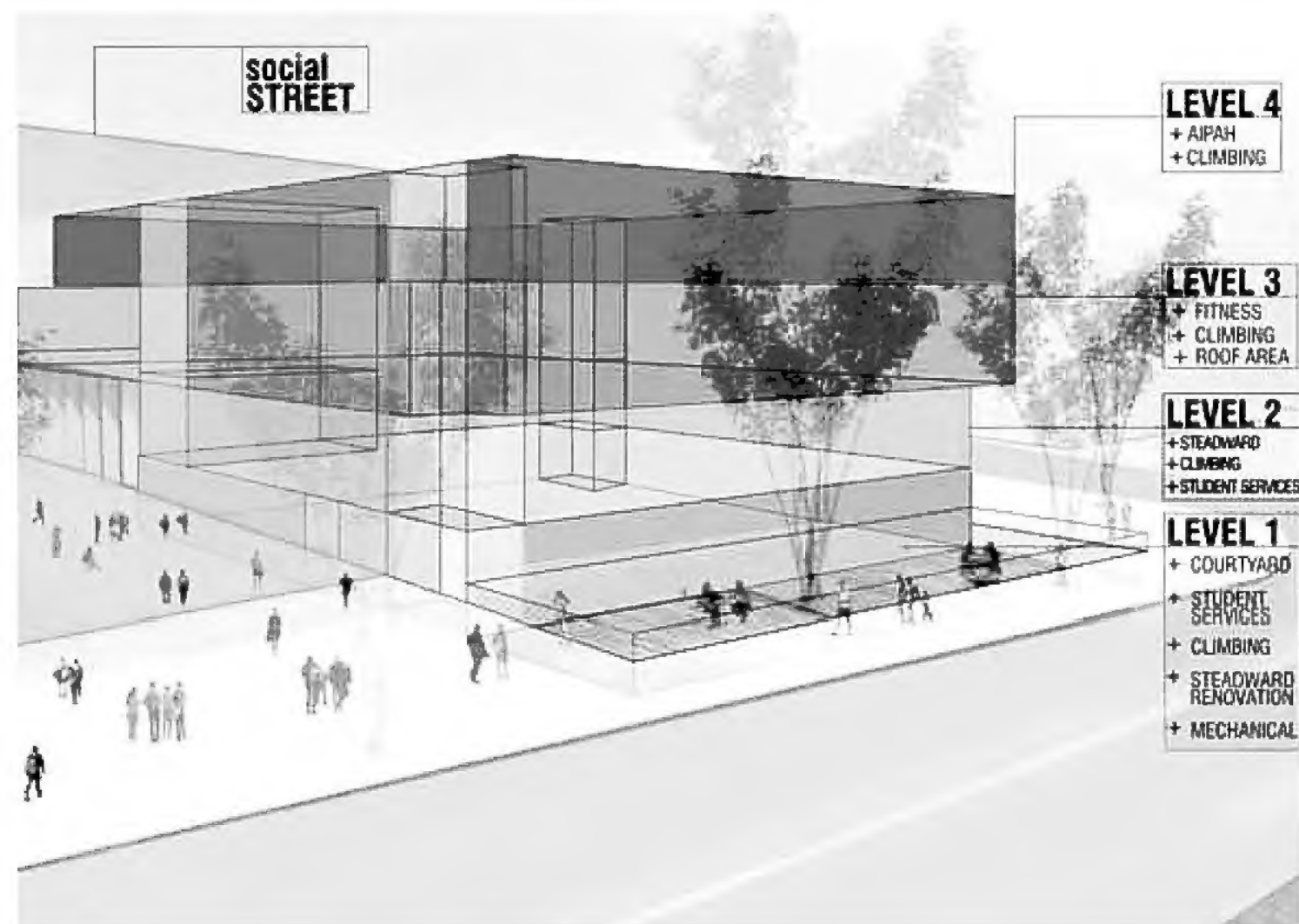
Another big difference is the broad range of potential activities and services that would be available.

"One of the key points is that this development is not just designed for hardcore athletes, although they will have some benefits, too. But it will be for the general student body and faculty, and staff as well, and cover a broader range of wellness-type activities and spaces," said Tom Hinch, associate dean of Phys Ed. and Rec. and lead for the project.

PLEASE SEE PAW ♦ PAGE 3

"The part that we really liked was the emphasis on student governance that we see reflected in the PAW principles quite well. If you pay for something, you want to be able to spend your money in a way that you see fit."

ZACH FENTIMAN
SU VICE PRESIDENT
(OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)



COMING SOON? The new PAW centre on the corner of 87 avenue, and 113 street.



AARON YEO

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE Among the Olympic torch bearers in Edmonton during the relay yesterday were U of A President Indira Samarasekera and Oilers coach Pat Quinn. For a full photo spread of the event, turn to pages 10-11.

MP Linda Duncan stops by SUBstage

BRENDAN CAVANAGH
News Staff

An open discussion regarding the federal government's decision to "prorogue" parliament until March 3 was led by Edmonton-Strathcona MP and Environment Critic Linda Duncan at SUBstage on Wednesday, substituting the scheduled visit by party leader Jack Layton. Duncan apologized for Layton's absence, caused by an "urgent anti-prorogation meeting" in Vancouver. She was accompanied by Edmonton Centre NDP candidate Lewis Cardinal.

Duncan dove quickly into the issue, offering a quick explanation of prorogation is, as well as her critique.

"The Prime Minister has a number of powers. Regrettably, this is one of the only democracies in the world where he has unilateral power — where he can go to the Governor General and ask that Parliament be shut down. That power does not exist in most democracies in the world."

Stephen Harper announced his decision on December 30, stating January 8 that the recess was intended

"to look carefully at our agenda, to continue to deliver the economic measures that are being delivered here and elsewhere across the country as part of the economic action plan. We also need time to re-examine our agenda, to prepare for the next year in Parliament, and to prepare for a very different economy going forward." (Globe and Mail, January 8). Duncan, however, pointed to the implications of the prorogation.

"When you prorogue parliament, what happens is all of the government bills die. 31 government bills died in the House of Commons. They did not die in the Senate as the Conservatives are telling you — that is a complete falsehood."

Another attack comes from the ever-growing "Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament" Facebook Group, now at 175,000 members, which was started by U of A graduate student Christopher White.

Fortunately for Duncan and the rest of the federal opposition, this "killing" only applies for government bills. All NDP legislative initiatives will therefore be spared, such as those

on climate change, the Environment Critic was quick to reference.

"I'm going to talk to you a little bit about climate change. No party has taken any legislation to parliament regarding climate change except the New Democrats. Before Harper called the last early election, our bill was going through the House. It had passed third reading and was going to the Senate for final confirmation. He killed that bill."

The question-and-answer period that followed extended the discussion further to include such varied topics as indigenous issues, child care, senate reform, and the possibility of a Liberal-NDP coalition, or a federal election.

"We're election-ready; we're not afraid of an election," said Duncan. "The reason why we didn't want to shut down the government [earlier] was because there were a lot of good bills that were going through the House."

The discussion wrapped up with encouragement from Duncan to students to send both her and Prime Minister Harper emails regarding the prorogation issue, as well as to participate in campaigning next election.

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Frozen emotions

Hannah Cochran explains the science behind how winter makes you feel so depressed.

OPINION, PAGES 7



Frozen assets

Julie Doiran explains why she's touring cross-country with no cash in her pocket.

A&E, PAGE 13

Conference Bound

The folks at the Gateway will be conferencing it up this weekend, learning how to make newspaper better, so there will be no paper on Tuesday. Watch for our return to newsstands on Thursday, January 24.

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colophon

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“

And the manager made a fine president, even if some of us weren't born yet.

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Sean Steels

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, where free food will be provided for all attendees.**Councillors may have been unfilled by the answers provided by the SU executive regarding the resignation of president Kory Mathewson, but the piles of empty pizza boxes littering the table outside the Council Chambers indicated that at least their bellies were satisfied. So the next time you're wondering how your elected representatives spend their time, come fill a plate, and watch student government in action.*

PAW COULD SEE PAY

Council designated bylaw committee to draft a referendum question regarding the implementation of a new dedicated fee to assist in the construction of the new Physical Activity and Wellness Centre on north campus, as well as upgrades to the Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre.

Students who are enrolled in at least one class per term shall be assessed a

fee no larger than \$29 per term in fall and winter semesters, and no greater than \$14.50 in the summer and spring terms. The fee will provide students with unrestricted use of the PAW Centre to any undergraduate student paying the fee. Fortunately, students will not be charged the fee until the centre is open to use, and the fee can't be employed for more than 30 years.

OUR TRANSIT MASTER PLAN

It was a busy night for referendum questions, as councillors also approved a question for March's election, this time regarding the continuation of the Universal Bus Pass.

Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod spoke strongly in favour of the bill, and acknowledged a student desire for a year-long U-Pass.

If approved by students, the U-Pass will continue to provide access to transit services through the Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit until 2013. Cost of the pass will be \$91.67 for the 2010/11 school year, \$104.17 for the 2011/12 school year, and \$116.67 for the 2012/13 school year.

SEEKING COUNSEL

Vice President (Operations & Finance) Zach Fentiman explained that student counselling services details have been resolved. It was earlier feared that in order to maintain the effectiveness of

counselling services, a fee might have to be put to students, creating two new positions. However, it was discovered that the fee would be unable to support two full-fledged counsellors, only aids, and the program alteration has since fallen by the wayside.

Fentiman also shared that he had received — after some delay — the draft artwork for the new campus beer Wicked Panda, and a final decision as to the brew's artwork will soon be made.

YOU'VE GOT GMAIL

Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham talked about an info session on Friday regarding the U of A's switch from their WebMail platform to Gmail. The session is designed to prepare students for some of the services and operation changes that will occur as campus makes the switch to the Google software. The switch to Gmail is expected to save the U of A \$2 million.

The session will be held from 1-3 p.m., in room 2022 of the Dentistry/Pharmacy building.

QUESTION PERIOD

Nick Dehod had an easy question to field, receiving a query regarding the condition of campus' nesting falcons. Dehod good-naturedly informed concerned counsellors that the "falcons are soaring."

He addressed another question that concerned changes to Anti-Freeze this year. Dehod said that he was very

pleased with how the event went. By cutting team size in half from previous years, he said he felt students were better able to be involved in the events.

Executives were asked by councillors whether they would be willing to allow ex-president Kory Mathewson to help with the job transition of whoever fills his position. The executive members each stated that they would approve of any help Mathewson could give, but that his departure from the SU meant he was no longer obligated to perform such duties.

Eastham fielded a question concerning the impending provincial cabinet shuffle. She informed counsellors that her eyes were on it and that she would be working hard to resume advocating for students with whoever assumed the cabinet position of Minister for Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner. It was revealed Wednesday that Horner will remain in his position, in addition to taking on the role of deputy premier.



STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Jonathan Taves and Pete Yee**Joey Zapemick**
Science I**Nadia Haynour**
Arts I**Ian Sanderson**
Phys. Ed. I**Laura McQuillan**
Science III

I'll be watching snowboarding and hockey everyday. Not so much figure skating, but [the Olympics] will be sweet.

The whole international community can take part in it. It's really cool.

I'm going to Whistler to watch for five days. I'm excited to watch skiing.

I like this Olympics a lot. I'm like a crazy Olympic person. I like how they bring all the countries together. It's legit — the one time where different religions and different cultures come together to play sports. And it's like, "no stress, just play sports."

DARK HORSE FRIDAYS

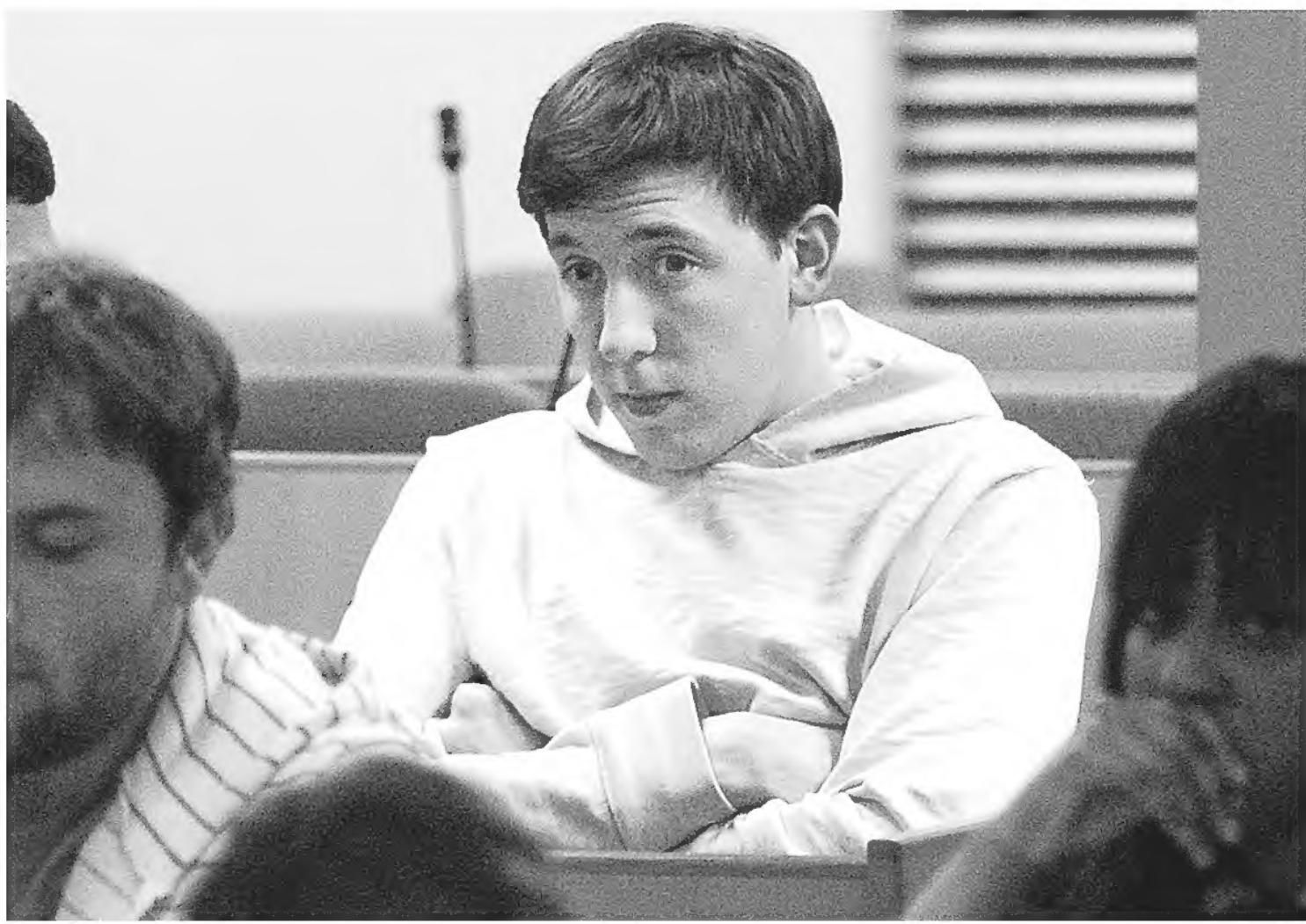
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Mathewson resignation debated



PETE YEE

LIPS ARE SEALED Mathewson declined requests to elaborate on his motives.

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

Students' Council met for the first time this year on Tuesday night. However, more than the year has changed since council last met, as members of council now find themselves, for the first time in the U of A's history, trying to find a replacement for its now resigned president.

Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham assured those present that the organization was still capable of maintaining all levels of service and operation.

Presidential responsibilities have already started to be divided among executives, and portfolio items such as the Revolutionary Speakers Series and the student survey are already being handled by other executives.

"I would not consider this a crisis," she said of the situation.

However, not all solutions regarding Mathewson's resignation were conveniently accepted by councillors, and executives spent as much of their night defending Mathewson's resignation as they did discussing options for selecting his successor.

Despite the assurance of executives, questions probing the details of the presidential resignation continued throughout the night beginning with why the executive, which has known about Mathewson's potential

resignation since mid-December, didn't tell councillors.

"Up until Friday, nothing was certain and nothing had been decided, so we had nothing to report. We were aware of consideration of resignation happening over the Christmas holidays," he explained. "But unless that had been decided, it would have just been disruptive to our work."

Also uncovered at the meeting is the fact that Mathewson and the remaining execs signed a confidentiality agreement, barring discussion of his terms of departure on Monday.

The timing of Mathewson's resignation has left the SU in a troubled position. The 23-day period required to host a byelection, along with the need to give candidates time to free their school schedule before the February 18 add/drop deadline have made byelection an unappealing option. With the potential danger of hiring a student-at-large, appointment of an executive or council member has emerged as the likeliest alternative. Eastham also suggested that a byelection placed so close to normal elections might cause confusion among voting students.

But for some councillors, the thrall continued with the discovery of Mathewson's reasons for resignation. As the night wore on, accusations over abuse of resources by SU funded legal consultation, persistent request for elaboration on the term "personal

reasons," and confirmation of a sourceless rumour that Mathewson is being forced to resign by pressure from the remainder of the executive committee dominated the agenda.

Regarding accusations that SU resources had been abused, Vice President (Operations & Finance) Zach Fentiman was quick to defend the action.

"How the executive committee operates throughout the course of the year, we have very frank personal assessments of each other that we have throughout the year, and those should remain confidential. Lawyers are involved to ensure that confidential documents, intending to improve our effectiveness as we assess ourselves as an executive committee are not released for public consumption in the future, particularly out of interest for ensuring that a resigning officer's professional career in the future is not compromised."

Questions regarding whether or not Mathewson's resignation had been forced by the executive were less-warmly received, which seemed to exacerbate them over time.

"Barring an act of council, nobody can force the president to resign. Council is the only body that can force the president to resign," Fentiman said.

Still, the greatest mystery surrounding the affair continued to be Mathewson's vague use of "personal reasons" for resignation, which were as adamantly attacked by councillors as they were defended by executives.

The issue, however, stayed cloaked behind the confidentiality afforded by the agreement signed Monday. General Manager Marc Dumouchel came the closest to shedding light on the issue, but refrained from elaborating further than indefinite mentions of "frank personal assessments" between executive committee members, at which point, he reconsidered answering the question in camera — without media or non-council members present.

Executives and the majority of councillors, however, seemed contented with the resolution and expressed strong desire to move forward from the incident.

ALSO READ **WAGNER** ON PAGE 7

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**from the
archives**

**"Drug experience validates
initial insights, claims U of
M professor"**
January 12, 1968

Winnipeg (CUP) — Four University of Manitoba professors recently revealed they have been using marijuana.

One of the four, an English lecturer, said not only is the use and support of the drug among his colleagues in the department rising, but the incidence of marijuana smoking among his students is "fantastically high."

The issue came to light after dean's council meeting, which had met to discuss possible drug regulations for the campus.

The other three professors were all with the fine arts department.

The English lecturer said...

From the Archives is a regular feature that explores the storied history of the Gateway, the University of Alberta's student newspaper since 1910. To read the full story and to explore our entire archive, check out thegatewayonline.ca/archives.

Centre to cost \$66 million

PAW • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Among the proposed amenities are games rooms, quiet study areas, a teaching kitchen, mediation and prayer areas, a climbing wall, as well as a new 20,000 square foot fitness room, and additional classroom space.

"Last time, students were providing the funding for a fitness centre and a hockey rink, and not all students will take part in that. In this, you're broadening the scope of the number of students that would have reason to access this," said Bob Kinasewich, Phys. Ed.'s director of development.

"I have to admit, a couple of years ago, when we had the other referendum, the student financing was intermixed too much. This is much more identifiable as to where their money is going to," he continued, explaining how student funding wouldn't be used for academic space or the research centre that will also be housed in the building.

If the \$66 million plan is approved, planners said that construction would begin no later than spring of 2011. The \$29 million student portion would only be collected once the building is operational, likely in 2013.

The remaining cost is being collected from government and private donors.

The PAW Centre will also be built with the environment in mind.

"We're looking at a variety of things in terms of being environmentally friendly and taking advantage of natural lighting," Hinch said.

Overall, all stakeholders feel that the benefits of the PAW Centre will be something students will be willing to contribute to, and will support.

"It's something that the students want to do, we believe, and as a result, we want to do it for them," Kinasewich concluded.



PETE YEE

POPULAR PLAN Tom Hinch believes students will see the PAW's benefit.

MARK WAHLBERG RACHEL WEISZ SUSAN SARANDON STANLEY TUCCI MICHAEL IMPERIOLI SAOIRSE RONAN

COLLECTED BY PETER JACKSON

THE LOVELY BONES

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PG VIOLENCE, MATURE SUBJECT MATTER

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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FRIDAY, JANUARY 15th

Online scams being felt on campuses

U of A aware that online scams occur, but many students are still unaware of the risks involved with shopping online or giving out personal information

ANDREA LUFT
News Writer

Students can use the Internet for almost everything: keeping in touch with friends, to being asked on dates, to finding a place to live. However, it's important not to forget about online risks.

Martin West, a military man and former student, was using renting-spaces.com to rent out a room in his home to a student. He received a response from a lady supposedly from Manchester, England. This lady was extremely eager to organize terms and send payment.

West received a cheque for several months rent as a deposit. Then a short while later, before the change had been processed by his bank, the lady began to ask for her money back. There was an elaborate story about her father and airplane tickets involved in the attempt to explain why West should send some of the money back. The correspondence became increasingly demanding as time went on.

"You will need to send \$2,000 back!" ordered an email from this lady's "father."

West did not send money back out of fear that this was, in fact, a scam.

"I am glad I did not spend any of the money, or I would have been in trouble," West explained. "I was, at first, offended when I received the letter explaining the cheque I had deposited was counterfeit."

In an attempt to better educate

himself, West had his bank explain to him how to identify a fake cheque or money order.

"It is hard to tell; the only thing identifiable here is that the letters are not embossed; this was a very good copy," West explained.

The University of Alberta is aware of these types of scams occurring, and they do make an effort to warn students at the technical support centre, and with reminders and posts to protect your password and be cautious on University-associated web pages. However, many students still struggle with safe internet use.

"I am hoping [my experience] will educate people, especially students," West said.

Most students are aware they must be cautious when providing personal information to their party online,

especially credit card information, but many are unaware of the risks such as the one West was almost victim to.

Exact numbers aren't available as far as the rate at which operations such as this one occur online, as many scams, including West's account, aren't reported. This is worrisome as it means the gravity of these situations is not understood by officials and ultimately students.

"There are lots of people out there just trying to make a buck, and they are very creative," West noted.

Scams such as this have been around a long time, but the Internet provides a new and rapidly expanding medium for them. Allowing one's self to fall into a sense of complacent safety, because they believe they will be protected by online firewalls and other virtual devices, is a recipe for disaster.



PETE YEE

THE BOTTOM LINE West wants people to be careful with their business online.

EXPLORE CANADA'S GREAT INDOORS

CANADIAN
Hudsons
TAP HOUSE

CANADA'S PUB

Harper's prorogue has us seeing red

IT SEEMS NOWADAYS, MORE THAN EVER, THAT WE have resigned ourselves to the fact that it's not only acceptable, but in fact even commonplace, for the ruling government to push the Parliamentary pause button at will. While Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his closest advisers continue to run the country, the rest of the House of Commons is left with little, if any influence over the direction the country takes as Parliament shuts down for yet another extended period of democratic nap time.

Harper's decision to throw the brakes on yet another session of Parliament back in December has since been met with furor from many, including academics. Although Harper is completely within his powers to ask the Governor General to prorogue Parliament, what is more troubling is Harper's latest justification for Parliament's current inactivity. The PM has gone so far as to give Canadians the explanation that the government can achieve maximum efficiency without MPs sitting in the House of Commons.

While many Canadians, especially here in the heartland of Conservative country, were more than willing to accept the reasons for Harper's first use of prorogation back in 2008, it seems that this time around, Harper has passed the threshold of iron-gripped leader to that of a quasi-dictator.

The amount of power Harper seems willing to wield appears to grow exponentially with each day in office—it's almost like he's running his minority Parliament as if he were the leader of a majority. Treating the House of Commons as a simple hindrance is what makes the current situation so remarkable. It even has Harper's former adviser, and U of C political scientist Tom Flannagan scratching his head, saying, "the government's talking points haven't been entirely credible."

Credibility is key to any government ruling effectively, and right now it appears that not even those who have been among Harper's staunchest supporters over the years can grasp how the PM is running the government right now. With Parliament being relegated to the sidelines, Harper and his cronies in the Prime Minister's office continue to run the country on their own, working on critical issues behind closed doors. Without the bright glow of the House of Commons to handcuff him, Harper can quietly handle the business of governing without obstruction, dealing with issues as he alone sees fit, while the Afghan detainee debacle gets quietly pushed out of sight and out of mind thanks to the current parliamentary break.

Harper isn't the first PM to use the power of prorogation—Jean Chretien used it four times during his tenure—and he certainly won't be the last. But he's the poster boy for proroguing parliament right now simply because he's openly utilizing this political manoeuvre to his maximum benefit.

Past precedent, though, isn't nearly enough to justify Harper's blatant slap in the face of democracy, which lends the impression that to the country's most powerful politician, the House is considered more of a pain than anything else.

Harper's disregard for both Parliament and his general party discipline have only added to the cynicism so many Canadians hold for the current state of politics. While the PM slaves away with his brain trust, carefully shaping policy without the bother of all those other MPs, maybe it's time Canadians took a break from years of political apathy and opened their eyes to the state of democracy in this country.

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

(Medicinal) Pot calling the kettle black

Fill your prescriptions—
Pot now legal in Jersey.
"Garden State." Fitting.

SARAH STEAD
She got a feelin' (wooooo hoouoo)



ROSS VINCENT

from THE web

The original concept from *Profile* magazine

RE: "To strip search a mockingbird"
January 12

May we get past apologies here? The article represents a gross apprehension for personal social complexity, and subsequent indignation and villianization [sic] when it is not manifested through general political culture. In this case, it is that of the West towards profiling, which the author may be a victim of, at least culturally.

Profiling, in this case, has been used to identify a risk group; in this case: young Muslim males or Muslim people in general, as he puts it. As the author mentions, let us pass up niceties when talking about profiling. Profiling is not nice. It is a tool in a self-proclaimed war on terror. Post 9/11 counter-terrorist measures have identified individual Muslims, acting alone or inspired or connected by Radical Anti-Western groups, as a potential risk-group. Such measures have been consolidated in subsequent attacks by this demographic in such individual cases as the most recent one with the Nigerian, the infamous shoe-bomber, the London/Madrid bombings, etc.

All this is mere formality. What exists now is a culture of resentment and fear, of which cause is attributed to this group. Thus, profiling represents a facet of counter-measure, which, if not politically responsible, is essentially

significant in the idea of human security—in this case, domestic.

JOSEF CHECKEL
Via Internet

Sorry, you were thinking of "Album Niceties"

RE: "30 Seconds To Mars Review"
January 12

Please do not be harsh on them! Every album cannot be similar. Stop making comparisons! There may be some shortcomings in this album but you have grossly exaggerated it.

Please do not harshly criticize someone else's work, unless you can do better!

SAHAJA KIRINDE
Via Internet

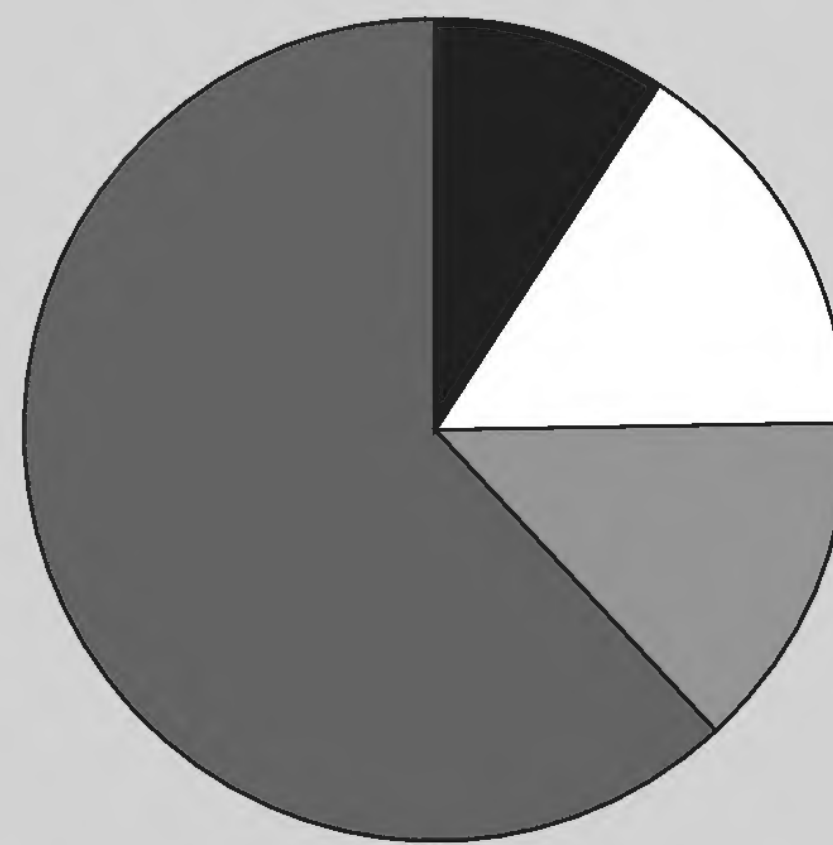
Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed, though if you leave a 700-word rant on one of our articles, you can pretty well assume that we're going to edit it.

To that end, the Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

readerpoll

"What option should Students' Council pursue in replacing ex-President Mathewson?"



- ☒ Appoint a current Vice President (63%)
- ☐ Appoint a current member of Students' Council (13%)
- ☐ Appoint a student-at-large (15%)
- ☐ Hold a by-election for the position (9%)

TOTAL RESPONSES AS OF PRESS TIME: 97

FRIDAY'S QUESTION:

"What do you believe should be the focus of the proposed Physical Activity and Wellness Centre?"

vote online at thegatewayonline.ca

Winter song of depression sings the blues



HANNAH COCHRAN

No one is going to dispute the fact that we don't exactly live in the most hospitable environment. In fact, the lack of sunlight throughout most of the day and the maliciously cold temperatures that define Edmonton's winters pretty much prove the theory that by January, the weather is out to destroy us.

Evidence is everywhere. Suddenly, walking across campus is not unlike being in a Swedish art film, every face expressionless and wind-bitten, every back bowed under the weight of textbooks and heavy obligation. But what if this blight of dreariness is more than just a reaction of having to return to the daily toil of classes? What if the weather truly does have a psychological and physical impact on the way we live?

When I drop the term "Seasonal Affective Disorder," I know what you're thinking, because I once felt the same way. When I first heard of SAD, I thought it was one of those make-believe illnesses like Restless Leg Syndrome or puppy autism. Then I moved from Philadelphia — where as we all know, it's always sunny — to a place where winter reigns

undisputed from September to April, and all of a sudden, I didn't feel so great. This isn't an isolated occurrence. It has been my personal observation that everyone seems a bit different this time of year, and many complain of oversleeping, having no energy, and moodiness. These seem to go beyond the normally boundless realms of student apathy or 20-something angst, so perhaps there might be something to this SAD racket after all.

What if the weather truly does have a psychological and physical impact on the way we live?

It turns out that we do absorb less vitamin D during these dark winter months, and vitamin D deficiency can cause changes in mood and energy levels, as well as cognitive impairment like memory loss or difficulty concentrating. SAD isn't legally considered a mood disorder here, but these nutrient-deficiency effects can lead to social withdrawal and depression.

Another possible explanation is that SAD is a kind of holdover from a time when food would be scarce in the winter, and our ancestors' metabolisms and activity would slacken to allow for decreased caloric intake. It's true that many plants and animals enter into a state of winter dormancy,

and is it really so out of line to suggest a theory that we're going against our nature when we don't hibernate for 4–6 months every year? I could certainly go for a break like that.

Statistics show that like snow mold (which I also thought was made up, by the way), SAD suffering is almost entirely the province of the northernmost climates, for obvious reasons. Interestingly, this excludes Iceland, where the number of SAD cases is shockingly low. This could be due to their genetics, the enormous amounts of vitamin D they consume through their fish-centric diets, or the magical protection of Björk.

I'll be honest, I don't actually understand the science here, and given my incredible disinterest related to actually doing significant research, I can only make assumptions with it. Therefore, I can't exactly testify to solutions for this wintry bedevilment. I can say I personally know of a young lady who has taken to grinding up vitamin D supplements and administering it to her significant other in the form of his morning coffee, so great is the upwards impact it has on his mood. Heat lamps are another option, for those of you who can withstand mockery, high electrical bills, and the vague feeling that you've become a lizard.

Or you could just do the reasonable thing and move away from this sun-forsaken land to some place where the memories of these winters will seem a sick and preposterous joke. Or maybe Iceland.

THE BURLAP SACK

I have a beef with "the" Olympic Torch that was run through the city. Or, to more accurately term it, "an" Olympic Torch that was run through the city, carrying "an" Olympic flame.

I've always had a vision of the Torch Relay and the running of the Olympic flame as a larger-than-life ideal. So when I heard that some friends of mine would be carrying the torch, I was impressed and looked into the whole matter. What I found fell short of my expectations.

As it turns out, at the end of every

Olympic Games, the flame is extinguished. It is relit prior to every Games in a ceremony in Greece, and then run to the next Games — though numerous "related" versions of this new flame are always kept alight in different locations, and used to relight the torches whenever they become extinguished. That torch we saw passing through Edmonton might be the "same" flame of sorts that may make it to Vancouver, or its "cousin" may be used — but it burns the same, so that's OK, right? To top it off, the torches used to hold the flame will be widespread, as Bombardier made 12,000 torches; whatever value there is in making so many commemorative gifts also really diminishes the sentimental value of each individual torch.

But my complaint isn't even with the illusion that the Olympic torch is larger-than-life — *everything* that the Olympics stands for is, and whenever it doesn't hold up to this impossibly high ideal, we can only be disappointed. So I *could* rage like a fire, but instead I'm throwing the burlap sack over reality, and mercilessly beating it to a pulp for once again proving less bright and significant than I once dreamed.

SIMON YACKULIC

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

Mathewson's response nothing but yellow



LUCAS WAGNER

After former Students' Union president Kory Mathewson resigned last week, I assumed that students were safe; no longer would we be disappointed any further by our ineffective leader. But at Students' Council on Tuesday, he surprised me by coming back from the political grave to let everyone down one last time.

The major item on Tuesday's table was, of course, Mathewson's resignation, and the process of replacing him as President. As was to be expected, questions abounded, but the one most asked by far was: just why exactly did Kory resign?

The question was re-asked and re-phrased to the remaining executives in many ways. What were the former President's cryptic "personal reasons"? Did the Vice Presidents have performance issues with Mathewson? Did they ask him to resign? And the VPs stuck to their guns: they re-iterated again and

again that it was Kory's choice, and that he has the right to his privacy.

It was only halfway through this line of questioning that a councillor had the bright idea to ask Kory himself — for he was in Council Chambers, sitting directly behind his once-fellow executives, almost as if he were using them as a sort of shield. So, just what was Kory's response when asked to elaborate on his resignation?

"No thanks."
What a cowardly cop-out. "No thanks." While I wasn't expecting anything substantial from Kory, this was a new low. At the very least, he could've said something akin to, "my reasons are my own, and it's not for either Council or the Executive to pry into." That would've done something to put rampant speculation within Council Chambers to rest. But by refusing to stand accountable in front of his peers, Mathewson did a disservice to not only the undergraduate population at large and the Council that represents them, but also the Executive that defended him and stood with him during his term in office. You should be ashamed of yourself, Kory.

But there's more than enough shame to go around when the conversation doesn't stay on topic even *remotely*. The questions wouldn't have escalated to the point that

they did without councillors to belabour the issue for over an hour and a half.

The central purpose of Tuesday's session of Council was to discuss either appointing or electing a replacement, but some councillors chose to badger the Executive instead. When the Executive Committee made it clear that they weren't willing to say anything further in public about the circumstances surrounding Mathewson resigning, it was time to move on. It's irresponsible to — as Science Councillor Hansra did — spend six separate speaking turns trying to ask the Executive Committee leading questions designed to somehow trick them into revealing their personal opinions about the ex-President.

Pulling stunts like this only serves to turn Council into more of a circus than it already is. Gossip and speculation have no place in our SU's legislative body, and only distract from the real issues — not only the process of presidential replenishment, but also the ongoing ones, such as tuition increases, or the replacement of the student association representing Hansra's own faculty of Science.

When Council reconvenes tonight, I trust they'll all be responsible elected officials, and focus on what really matters. To do anything else — well, that would certainly be a shame, now wouldn't it?

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GSJS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 28 January, 2010 at 5pm in Room 3-06, Students' Union Building

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

Introductory remarks • Approval of 2008-2009 GSJS Audit (Allen & Associates) • Announcements • Refreshments

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to 28 January and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you have made five or more contributions to the Gateway in the 365 days prior to 28 January and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at eic@gateway.ualberta.ca. This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, please contact Gateway Business Manager Asia Szkudlarek at biz@gateway.ualberta.ca or visit www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsj

https://www.beartracks.ualberta.ca

Winter Term 2010 Registration Deadline

The deadline for course changes using Bear Tracks is **Midnight, January 18, 2010**

NO APPEALS for registration changes after the deadline will be considered.

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- **Your Campus Computing ID (CCID) and password**—you need this information to access Bear Tracks. If you need help with your CCID please contact the Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT) office at www.ualberta.ca/HELP/.
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- **Classes closed to Web registration** require Department consent/permission. You must submit your request to the Department well in advance of the deadline. Campus offices are not open after regular hours. Contact information can be found on the University's website www.ualberta.ca, under 'Faculties and Departments'.

Bear Tracks Hours of Operation:

- Familiarize yourself with Bear Tracks Hours of Operation at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/beartracks.

New Bear Tracks Features:

- **Emergency Notifications**—Receive a notification in the event of a major emergency incident at the University. Add the number of your mobile device in the 'Phone Numbers' section of 'Personal Information.'

Note: It is your responsibility to safeguard your CCID and password.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

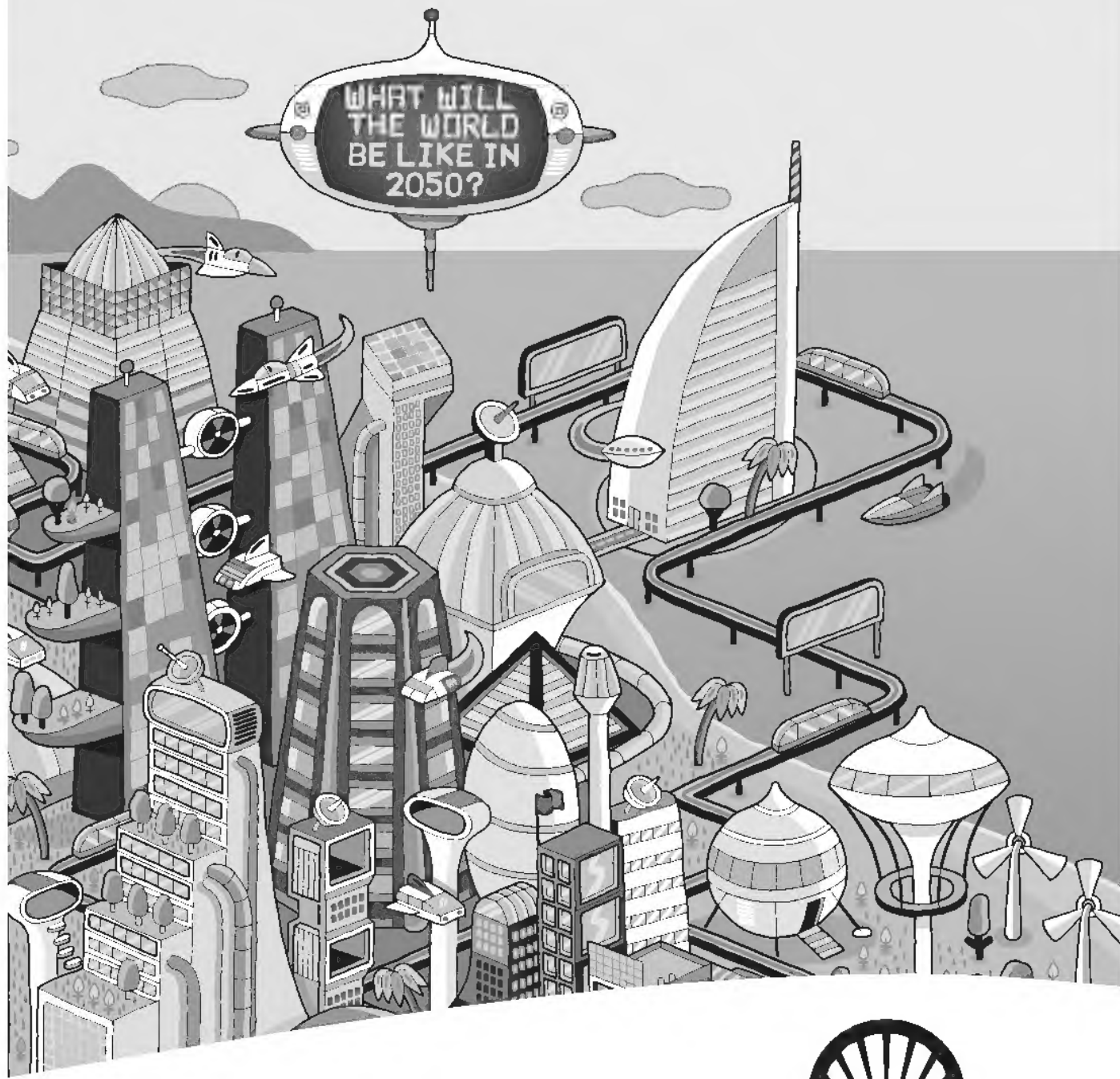
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It's pretty darn hard being green

DAVID
JOHNSTON



"When I lived with my parents, the recycling box was magically emptied every week or so, possibly by the Recycling Fairy, with her solar-powered wings and a biodegradable wand, who would steal away our cardboard and tin cans in the middle of the night."

Before starting today's weekly rant, which is about the perils of recycling, I feel like I should take a second to weigh in on the current debacle in student politics at the moment. Now, I don't have much insight, or any kind of probing questions for the SU or for Kory Mathewson, but looking at the whole thing objectively, I have only three words: I was right.

Avid readers of my Gateway columns, both of you, will remember last year when I spoke briefly about my politics curse, which dooms any SU politician who I know personally, a curse that claimed the political careers of Greg German, Sean McQuillan, and many, many more. I assumed Kory, whom I knew via theatre, had managed to skirt the worst of the curse by running at the same time as my old junior high school chum Ian Clarke. Turns out that there's no escape from this brand of voodoo, however, and Mathewson went down in a blaze of banality and shrugs last week. Mystic curses are, after all, synonymous in politics with "personal reasons." That's how Nixon did it.

The moral of this story? *No one should ever know me personally.* But I'm sure the SU has a plan to rotate in another politician — one who I've hopefully never met — and the cycle of democracy can begin anew. Which tangents nicely back to

our original topic, which I believe I said was recycling.

Like so many vaguely semi-ec-minded students on campus, I've been instilled with an urge to keep the planet green and healthy, and I made up my mind to do so through bringing bagged lunches, using public transit, and wearing clothes sewn out of the finest grade-A puppy skin — puppies being, of course, an excellent renewable resource. Recycling, though has always stymied me, like nuclear physics, or rationales behind why people ever apply to student politics.

At our apartment, for instance, my roommates and I neatly clean all the recycling, and then we stack the recycling in a cardboard box under the kitchen table. Then, when no one's looking, we throw the contents of the cardboard box into the dumpster behind our house. Because let's face it — none of us know how to recycle. When I lived with my parents, the recycling box was magically emptied every week or so, possibly by the Recycling Fairy, with her solar-powered wings and a biodegradable wand, who would steal away our cardboard and tin cans in the middle of the night. The trouble is, when I tried to get Roommate Mike to dress up in a pair of fairy wings, I got one of those looks from him again. I'm getting used to them.

Part of the problem is that there's no recycling depot or big blue bin within shouting distance of our house. But the bigger issue is that recycling, as a concept, doesn't seem to resonate down to the individual. I mean, if I *knew* that the milk carton I'm throwing out would become something useful, like a novelty blowgun I could purchase from a dime store, then I'd be satisfied. Every time, though, I got nothing to show for it but vague promises that the materials might someday be used for something productive.

Which is why I'd like to introduce in some sort of personal colour-coded tagging system for personal pride. My colour could be lime green, for instance, and I'd be able to spray-paint all my recycling with some kind of super-indelible lime-green paint. And then when I pass by a house or a bookstore that advertises the use of 25 per cent recycled material or something, then I could go paging through the books or digging through the drywall until I found my colour-coded contribution. And you know what I would feel then? *Pride.*

I think it's an excellent plan. But until I see it in action, however, I'm sorry to say that much of my recycling will just wind up thrown in the trash, alongside all other recent articles discarded for little-to-no-reason given, that have no more purpose in the worldly eye. At least Kory will have company.



CALL FOR CONSULTATION By the Dean Review Committee, Faculty of Education

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Dr. Fern Snart will have completed her term as Dean of the Faculty of Education on June 30, 2010 and she has indicated she will seek a second term in office. In accord with University regulations a Review Committee has been established.

At this point, the Review Committee is calling for opinion on the state of the Faculty of Education under the leadership of the current Dean. All input must be signed; however, members of the community may ask the Provost to have their input circulated to the committee without attribution. Individuals are urged to contact members of the Committee, or write to me as Chair, to express their views on priorities of the Faculty, current issues, and the future direction of the Faculty. All feedback may be shared with the Review Committee. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, **please submit your comments by Monday, February 8, 2009.**

Specifically, the Committee is interested in the following:

- 1) Leadership** – ability to provide a vision and direction for the Faculty and achieve its strategic goals;
- 2) Management** – fairness, balance and effectiveness in decision-making affecting the direction of the Faculty and effectiveness in setting priorities and dealing with issues;
- 3) Personnel Management** – issues dealing with the recruitment and retention of staff, as well as the administration of all personnel within the Faculty;
- 4) Contributions** – the contributions of the Dean within the Faculty, the University, the Community (including alumni), and professional fields;
- 5) Development** – the success of the Faculty in achieving its goals with resources available and the effectiveness of the Dean in seeking outside funding through fund development and advancement activities;
- 6) Communications** – the effectiveness of both internal and external communications;
- 7) Other matters.**

In addition, an open 'Public Forum' will be held on **Tuesday, February 2, 2010, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in Room 464/465 Education South.** At the Forum, the Dean will discuss her vision of the Faculty of Education for the next five years. Dean Snart's review is based on the position description in effect at the time of her appointment.

Your views are important to us and we are grateful for your assistance. Please forward your comments to the address below or to any member of the Dean Review Committee (contact information at left).

Carl G. Amrhein
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Chair, Dean Review Committee
2-10 University Hall, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J9
E-Mail: provost@ualberta.ca



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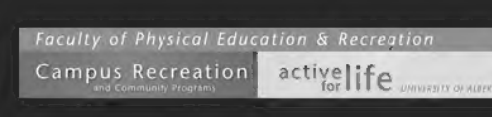


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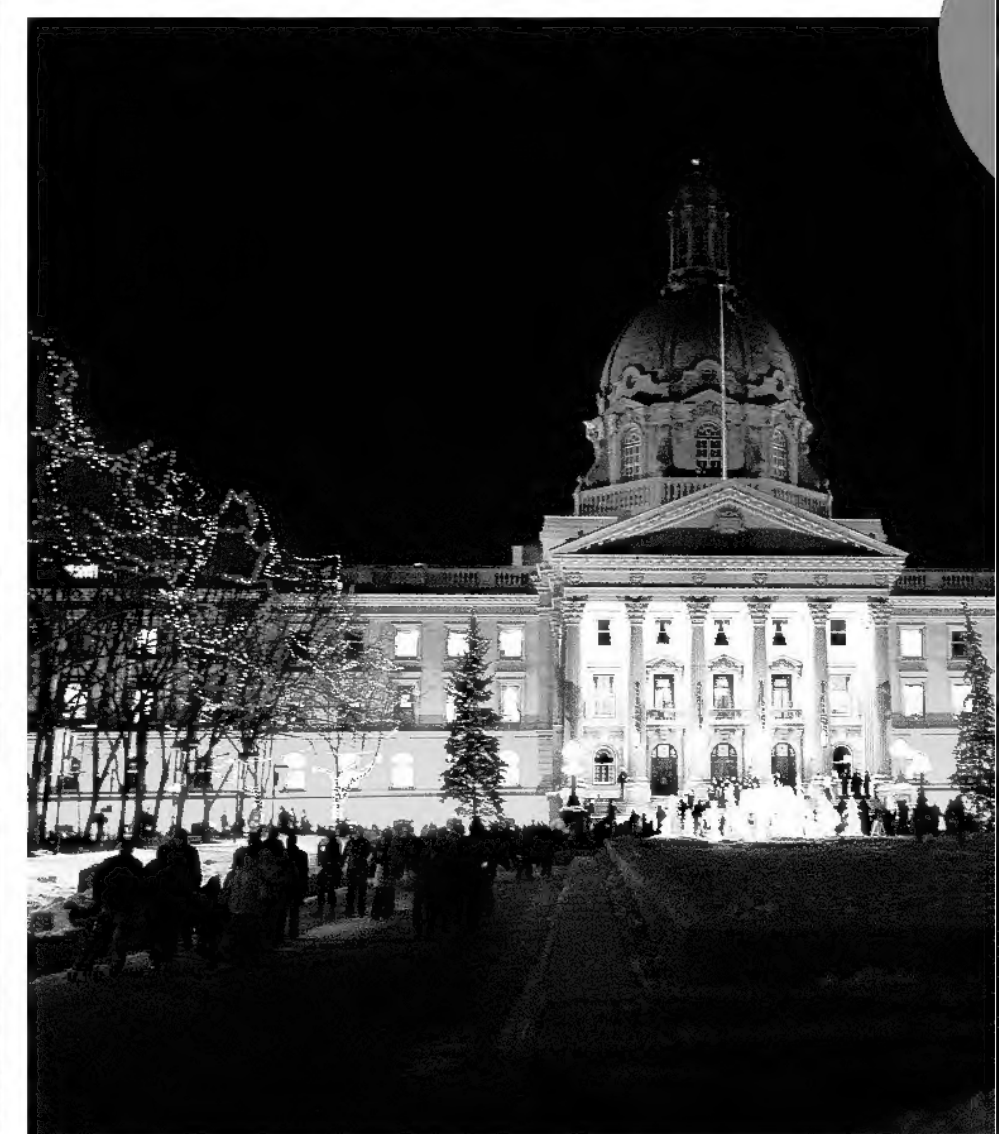
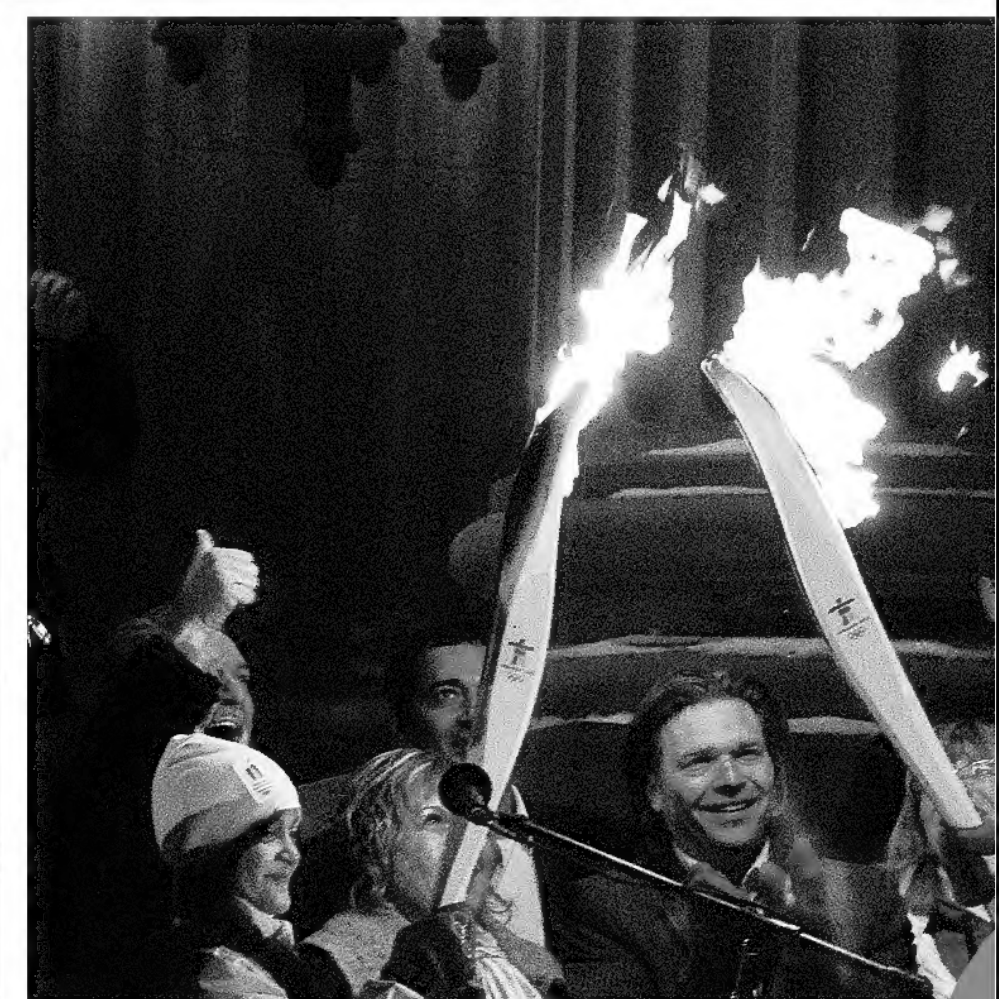
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TO CARRY A TORCH

On Wednesday evening, day 76 of the Olympic Torch relay, the much-anticipated flame made its way through Edmonton. Fans, volunteers, and even a few protesters came out for the main leg through the city, which included an appearance outside the U of A's Butterdome, concluding downtown at Churchill Square.



Photos by Cyril Balitbit, Sam Brooks, Lisa Lin, Paul Swanson, and Aaron Yeo



social intercourse

Guana Batz

With *Smokin' 45s*, *Hurricane Felix & Southern Twisters*, *Preying Saints*, and *Grave Mistakes*
Friday, January 15 at 8 p.m.
New City Compound (10081 Jasper Ave.)
\$25 at newcitycompound.com

Lately, New City has been moving back into the public eye with a string of exclusive concerts, including Screeching Weasel and the Misfits. Members of the elite pompadoor-endowed public will be excited to see a show featuring five 'billy bands gracing our fine city. Calgary's finest rockabilly band, the Smokin' 45s, are strong enough to carry the show on their own, but the appearance of England's legendary Guana Batz ensures that this is a show not to miss. Often credited as the very first psychobilly band, the Batz's arrival in Edmonton for one of only two shows in North America is highly anticipated.

Oil City Derby Girls

OCDG vs. Saskatoon/OCDG vs. Men's Invitational
Saturday, January 16 at 6 p.m.
Oil City Grindhouse (14420-112 St.)
\$15 at the door

Does the idea of pin-up girls with rock 'n' roll attitudes beating the snot out of each other appeal to you? Then this is the show for you! The January show is a special doubleheader featuring a match against Saskatoon's finest derby girls, and a one-time only match against a men's super team formed by members from all over North America. If you're still unsure whether you would be interested in this fast-paced free-for-all, go out and watch *Whip It*, featuring Ellen Page and Drew Barrymore. If that doesn't increase your thirst for beautiful women in roller skates, then, sadly, nothing will.

Guns N' Roses

With *Sebastian Bach* and *Danko Jones*
Sunday, January 17 at 8 p.m.
Rexall Place (1424-118 Ave.)
\$49.50-89.50 at Ticketmaster

Normally, we refrain from covering shows that are large enough to play in this venue. Unfortunately, rumours have reached my ears that this particular show is far from sold out. Guns N' Roses has endured a considerable amount of controversy over years, and the vacancy of guitar legend Slash will not go unnoticed, but this show should be interesting at worst. The one-man circus that is Axl Rose never fails to capture attention, much like a chubby, corn-row-wearing Amy Winehouse. The potential for a complete train wreck should be reason enough to pick up your tickets today. If that still isn't enough to get you to cough up a large sum of money, then I have only one thing left to say to you: Sebastian Bach was on *Gilmore Girls*.

You Say Party, We Say Die!

Monday, January 11 at 4 p.m.
Megatunes on Whyte Ave
Free Show

Once again, New City provides music fans with a great show, this time in the basement of Megatunes. If you haven't had the opportunity to see You Say Party, We Say Die! live, then you've been missing out on a wonderful new-wave band. As their positive vibes radiate through the crowd on a winter afternoon, one thing is certain: everyone will be dancing.

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
Rockabilly Roundhouse Kick!

Financial woes can't slow Julie Doiron down

She's a little strapped for cash these days, but Doiron says she's working on her best material yet



musicpreview

Julie Doiron

With *Attack in Black*
Wednesday, January 20 at 8 p.m.
The ARTery (9535 Jasper Avenue)
\$12 at door

JOEL RACKEL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The perpetual motion machine exists, and it is Julie Doiron. After just a three-week break from touring, Doiron is embarking on a long American tour opening for the band Bowerbirds. During the tour, she will briefly break away and bring her folk rock north, making headlining appearances in a few Canadian cities.

However, Doiron's next leg of touring isn't starting off so well. As we talk, she breaks into a tale of how she's short on cash due to a banking error — cash that she needs to rent a car when she heads stateside, which is only three days after our conversation.

"So now I'm just super stressed," she says. "I'm trying to find enough money to rent a car on Monday, so I'm a little bit out of it. My answers might be really crazy."

Doiron obviously has a lot on her mind, not least of which are money worries. Though Doiron had the most played album on Canadian college radio in 2009 (*I Can Wonder What You Did With Your Day*), gets considerable air play on CBC, and has a strong live following across Canada, she has yet to find permanent financial stability, which is the main reason she's constantly touring.

"I think there is a misconception that even though people know who you are, until you have a commercial single or a song in a commercial, you are never

going to retire. It's constantly up and down and really day-to-day for a lot of the musicians I know," she shares.

As we talk, the most interesting parts of our interview come not from the questions I ask, but from random anecdotes or thoughts Doiron shares. It soon becomes apparent that the candor and brutal honesty present in her song lyrics is also present during our conversation. She's eager to share her thoughts on some new songs she has written in this same vein.

"I've got like seven brand new songs, and two that are not quite done. I don't know what the next record is going to be like, but I'm excited to make it. These new songs I'm writing are pretty heavy subject-wise, and so I don't know how I'm going to treat those."

Fans can expect to hear some of that new material on this tour, an experience that Doiron relishes.

"I love playing new songs live," she says. "It's a really exhilarating feeling [...]"

It creates that same emotion that I used to experience when I first started performing live and I think that after 17 years of performing live, it's really great to be able to create that same emotion."

Fans will also be happy to hear that

"I think there is a misconception that even though people know who you are, until you have a commercial single or a song in a commercial, you are never going to retire."

JULIE DOIRON
MUSICIAN

after Doiron field-tests and fine-tunes the new songs on this tour, she is "hoping to record the new album in April, because that looks like the only month I'm going to have off in the next year."

Up to this point, Doiron has had a prolific 17-year career, including eight solo albums and four collaborative albums. Considering how her last two solo records have fared (*Woke Myself Up* was on the Polaris prize shortlist, and her next release snagged the aforementioned college radio number-one spot), she seems to be on an upward trajectory with her music. And with the confidence she has in the new material, the trend seems poised to continue.

"I personally think that the new songs I've been writing are kind of the best," she laughs.



Thunderstick: theatre for the boys

But according to Craig Lauzon, you'll get points with girls if you bring them too

theatrepreview

Thunderstick

Written by Kenneth T. Williams

Directed by Bradley Moss

Starring Lorne Cardinal and Craig Lauzon

The Roxy Theatre (10708-124 St.)

January 14-31 at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. No show Mondays.

\$13-50 at theatrenetwork.ca

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
Arts & Entertainment Staff



While sitting down with a laid back Craig Lauzon at the Roxy Theatre this week, we had the chance to discuss manliness, Greek food, and Aboriginal culture. And it only took a few moments before he began dispensing words of wisdom, including some solid dating advice.

"If you've never went and seen a show before and you want to score points with your lady, you can come and see the show because you will like it," he jokes.

He's referring to *Thunderstick*, a play that's coming to Edmonton this week featuring two popular Canadian actors, Lauzon of *Royal Canadian Air Farce* fame and Lorne Cardinal from the TV series *Corner Gas*. The play is a joint venture between theatre companies in Edmonton and Saskatoon and has the two actors switching roles each night.

The play revolves around two journalist cousins who have reunited as adults to cover a story after years of separation, only to find that a degree

of animosity still exists between them. Their relationship is complicated, resulting from a competitiveness that has lingered since their youth. Lauzon assures that there will be lots of laughs and slapstick, possibly even a well-timed "bag tag."

While a lot of press is focusing on the fact that the actors are Aboriginal, he wants to pique the interest of a group of people that usually don't attend theatre productions: guys. He promises that the show contains a lot of testosterone, a car, and an ample amount of swearing.

"It just opens you up to theatre and seeing what it can be like," he explains. "It doesn't have to be artsy fartsy all the time; there are great shows out there — stuff that is written by guys, manly guys, and this is one of those kinds of plays."

As a veteran of both television and theatre, he's enthusiastic about

performing in front of a live audience. Since the two men are switching roles each night, it adds an extra element of difficulty to the production. According to Lauzon, though, it also adds to the fun, which is something that he's sure will make the show stand out and draw in a new crowd.

After learning that a campus newspaper is previewing the play, Lauzon extends a good-natured challenge to members of the University of Alberta's Golden Bears.

"It would be good to get the U of A basketball team [...] to come out and see it. They would really enjoy it. In Saskatoon, the guys from the U of S Huskies basketball team came out and they loved it. They were people that would have never been interested in seeing the show; they had never seen a show in their lives."

But don't forget to score some extra points by bringing a date.

Canoe Festival ups drama in third year

theatrepreview

Canoe Theatre Festival

Featuring *Etiquette*, *Pig*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Grumblestock's*, *Blood Opera: the Raven Tango Poems*, *Dedicated to the Revolutions*, and *Lauchie, Liza & Rory*

Curated by Michael Clark

January 19-31

\$18 for students at workshopwest.org

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Last year when the *Gateway* spoke with Michael Clark, artistic director of Workshop West Theatre, about the future of the Canoe Theatre Festival, he was optimistic. From its humble beginnings with only six performing artists in the first year to 26 last year, and finally 46 in its third year, the growth is definitely apparent.

"I feel like we're gaining momentum," Clark says of the expanding festival.

Clark, now with a dozen festivals behind him, says he really wants to push the Edmonton alternative theatre scene to new, even more experimental places.

"The whole idea behind the festival is to bring new, innovative, and alternative works to the stage, those locally and abroad, [and] to present different kinds of theatre from what we usually see," Clark explains before delving into this year's roster of unusual theatre.

Etiquette is especially non-

traditional, to the point where even Clark finds it "difficult to describe," but he does his best.

"Two people sit at a table, they're not actors — they're audience members. They have headphones on, and they listen to separate audio tracks that tell them what to do and say to each other. It's a really intimate theatre experience because you are both the actors and the audience, and nobody else is watching," he says.

Next up is *Lauchie, Liza & Rory*, which comes from Nova Scotia. Clark admits that it's "a fairly traditional piece of theatre," compared to other shows at the festival, but adds that "it's just brilliant and very funny."

On the other side of things is *Pig*, arguably the most "out there" play of the bunch, which Clark describes as "a rock 'n' roll spectacle."

"It sends up the whole concept of what we consume as entertainment. It's kind of lurid, and it presents itself like a peep show, but once you get in there, you're sort of asked, 'Why did you come to see a peep show?' What is it about that kind of thing that you wanted to come and see?"

Blood Opera: The Raven Tango Poems is a marriage of poetry and tango. Based on the collection of poems of the same name by Jannie Edwards, it's poetry "put on its feet" — literally. Instead of simply readings the poems, the actors have memorized them and perform the tango simultaneously.

Combining the alternative with the traditional, *Hedda Gabler* is a "site-specific, postmodern deconstruction of a 100-year-old play," says Clark of

this interpretation of Henrik Ibsen's classic. 15 audience members follow actors around Rutherford House on campus as they perform the scenes, room to room.

Rounding out the list is *Grumblestock's*, the Edmonton Fringe hit from three years ago, and *Dedicated to the Revolutions* from Toronto. All together, Clark believes that these seven plays will appeal to the exploring minds of university students, who are more in touch with riskier theatre and contemporary ideas.

While he oversees this growing festival, it's clear that audience is centrally important to Clark and the productions themselves.

"Theatre happens at the intersection of the artist and the audience. The performance is informed by the audience. If you can take that information and then apply it to the way it's developed, then you're deepening your understanding of the work and how the audience relates to it," he says.

And while the audience is still small compared to other Edmonton theatre festivals like the Fringe and Nextfest, Clark still sees them as being very different from each other, and even complimentary.

"In some ways, the Fringe prepares a great big ground and they throw a few seeds and all kinds of things pop up, whereas [the Canoe Theatre Festival] would be like an orchard garden."

As Clark's festival continues to blossom and grow, his plant comparisons are especially fitting.

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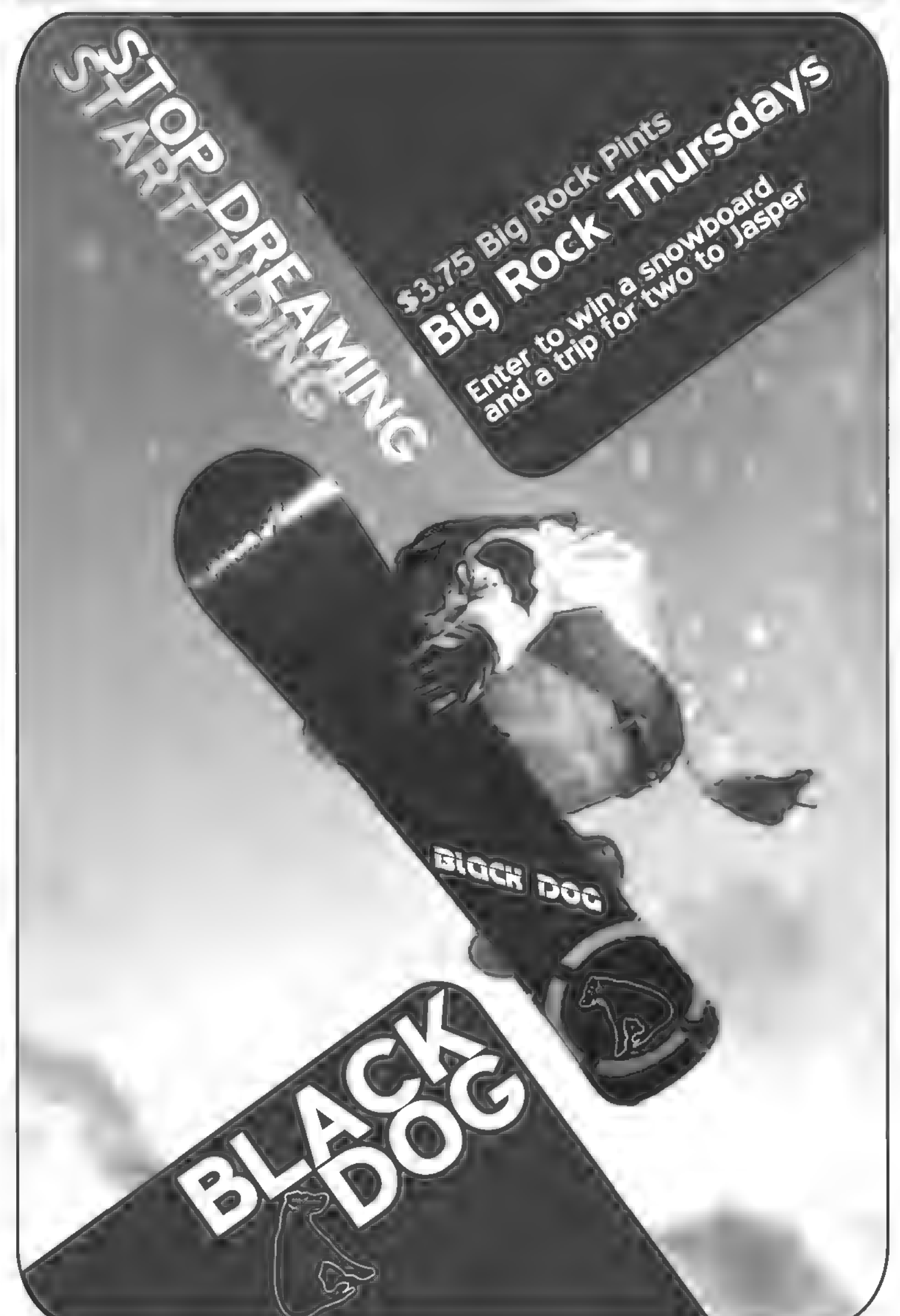
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Dear Jackie Chan: please retire

filmreview

The Spy Next Door

Directed by Brian Levant
Starring Jackie Chan, Amber Valletta, Billy Ray Cyrus, and George Lopez
Opens January 15

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

There must be some kind of malicious contract clause that every major action star, after reaching a certain level of fame, is obligated to do a kid's movie that pits them against a bunch of unruly, mischievous children. This concept serves to juxtapose their hardened, seemingly invincible exterior with the idea of them being a sissy little babysitter, resulting in eternally hilarious face-slapping and diaper-changing situations for men like Arnold Schwarzenegger (*Kindergarten Cop*), Vin Diesel (*The Pacifier*), and now Jackie Chan.

The problem is, Jackie Chan has no hardened exterior. He's always seemed like an amiable softy — the "Mr. Nice Guy" who ends up in the wrong place at the wrong time and is forced to throw a high kick or jump off a balcony. As such, the mind-bogglingly atrocious and bland *The Spy Next Door* doesn't even offer up any of the superficial tension of other films of this nature, since Chan actually seems like he could be a babysitter.

The film begins with a montage of sequences from Chan's previous films, tantalizing children with images of far better pictures than the one they're about to watch. We're then introduced to Bob Ho (Chan), a CIA superspy who lives by day as a glasses-and-sweater-vest-sporting Poindexter extraordinaire and sells pens for a living. But before he retires and settles down with main squeeze Gillian (Amber Valletta) into his dream life as a boring asshole, he has to, for some wholly irrational reason, convince her three irascible little wretches

that he's cool.

But how could a guy who knows kung fu and has a bunch of cool spy shit ever possibly attain this goal? It becomes much simpler after Gillian's son accidentally downloads plans for a bacterial weapon that belong to Ho's archnemesis, a Trevelyan-like Russian terrorist named Poldark (quite possibly the silliest, least sinister name for a terrorist ever). Unsurprisingly, Chan has to solve this one last case while protecting Gillian's one-dimensional children from the no-name-brand, bought-in-bulk Russian villains in order to earn their trust.

Oh, did I mention that the film features the rich comedic duo of George Lopez and Billy Ray Cyrus as Chan's CIA buddies? *The Spy Next Door* is a wholesome film that teaches children horrible values, most of which flow from Cyrus' southern bumpkin mouth. On the virtues of marriage, Cyrus advises Chan to "find some woman you're going to hate in five years and just give her your house," sounding like a perversely twisted fortune cookie read by the sage-like hillbilly who once sang "Achy Breaky Heart." Elsewhere, in one particularly heartwarming moment, Chan takes the kids to a Chinese restaurant, where the 13-year-old girl Farren gets hit on by an Efron-esque university student. Wait, that's not a heartwarming moment. That's disturbing and cringe-inducing.

Jackie Chan has always been an entertainer first and a martial artist second. Give the man a chair, ladder, or frying pan, and he'll do something reliably amusing with them. While he achieves this to some degree here, he's still forced to publicly humiliate himself several times in this irredeemable myriad of stereotypes and embarrassing dialogue, the likes of which even his own inherent charisma and knack for stunts can't overcome. *The Spy Next Door* makes a strong case for letting your child watch *Rush Hour* instead. It may be the only time that movie is recommended over anything, but even seeing Chris Tucker angrily scold Chan's touching of a black man's radio is more tolerable than this.

How to spend last day as *A Single Man*

filmreview

A Single Man

Directed by Tom Ford
Starring Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Matthew Goode, Ginnifer Goodwin, and Nicholas Hoult
Princess Theatre (10337-82 Ave.)
Opens January 15

SIMON YACKULIC
Arts & Entertainment Staff

How would you plan your last day? *A Single Man* follows George (Colin Firth) as he ritualistically plans his suicide in an orderly and sensible British fashion — yet, despite what would initially appear to be a prevailing morbid theme, this movie isn't really about death. Rather, director Tom Ford explores those few moments of clarity we all experience that — at least for George — make an otherwise absurd and dreary existence meaningful.

George's existence could be stamped out at any second. He doesn't live in fear of the random acts that could end his life, like the fatal car crash that killed his partner, or a nuclear winter that is constantly looming on the horizon of a 1960s America facing a powerful Soviet Union. Choosing instead to ignore fear, the film finds George stuck in the depressing monotony of a life without meaning and shadowed by a profound sorrow ever since that fatal accident shattered his bliss. George tells the man staring back at him in the mirror, in a characteristic British professor accent, to "just get through another God damn day," and we see an old man who can't live with a world that he no longer recognizes as his own.

But Colin Firth isn't portraying a Gran Torino-style Clint Eastwood. In *Gran Torino*, Eastwood portrays a grizzled veteran who is mad and bitter at a changed world. Yet, through the film, he



gradually grows to accept the modern world for what it is.

George, however, is not bitter at the world for leaving him in the past. Referred to by the other characters as "old man," he feels depressed and hopeless when faced with the absurdity and pointlessness of his existence — he might as well kill himself, for the only happy moments he has felt are buried in his not-so-distant past. Don't be too depressed, though. As you might expect, he eventually comes to terms with his life and recognizes slivers of happiness in a sea of sorrow for what they're worth.

I have nothing but deep appreciation for the frequent artsy, emotional flashbacks showered throughout the film. Similarly, the music and lighting is astoundingly well done and adds greatly to the experience — this is not a film to be overlooked. The old-style look and feel of the place gets you in the period mood of the movie.

However, despite the visual appeal, one should be warned about the copious amounts of male nudity. For starters, the camera could have panned up when the trousers came down. Seriously, how old is Colin Firth? Is a 49-year-old rippling bum that visually appealing to anyone? However, this is the only flaw I could find in the entire movie; rest assured, if back-cheeks are a bonus in your books, then there's absolutely nothing in this brilliant existential work that will turn you off of it.

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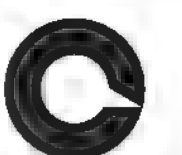


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Gypsies aim to revive rock n' roll



DAN MCKECHNIE

BAND OF GYPSYS Kyle Short, Allen Meek, Kerry Hirsch, and Brent Clark opened up their jam space to the *Gateway* last weekend and shared a few of their songs, as well as a few of their thoughts on where rock music is heading.

musicpreview

The Gypsies

With *Los Diablos*
Saturday, January 16 at 9 p.m.
The Crown Pub (10709-109 St.)
\$5 at the door

TIM SCHNEIDER
Arts & Entertainment Staff

When I knock on the door of the basement suite that serves as the unofficial headquarters of The Gypsies, I don't know what to expect. The beat-up van out front, painted to look like *Scooby Doo's* Mystery Machine, is an interesting introduction. Gypsies guitarist Kerry Hirsch lets me in and leads me down into the hazy underground living space and introduces me to bassist Kyle Short. Both of them live here. Lead singer Allen Meek arrives late, complaining of a hangover, while drummer Brent Clark just grins.

We wander into the band's studio — a small, re-appropriated garage attached to the suite. Their passion plasters the walls in the form of posters paying homage to their personal rock idols: Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, KISS, Led Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. One of the band members flicks on a psychedelic light that projects against the back wall and the band gets ready to begin — well, almost. For a few minutes, we seem to be missing one band member or another, but everyone makes it back in time to pass around a couple of joints.

As Hirsch provides the opening riffs, suddenly the smoky room seems an integral part of the atmosphere, a throwback to a time before mountains

of subgenres and niche bands existed, and rock 'n' roll way in its heyday. At one point, Clark punches out the percussion blindly while gulping back water that Meek is pouring down his throat from a pitcher during one of their songs.

"While symphony musicians might be thrown off by a cough in the crowd, the Gypsies could dodge beer bottles thrown at them on stage and still perform pitch perfectly," jokes Meek.

The jam session comes to an end and we meander back into the main living space of the basement, highlighted by a mattress on the floor in the middle of the cropped-together couches surrounding the TV. We crash down on the couches and it's not long before another joint is being passed around, followed by an acoustic guitar. We joke around for a bit before we get to discussing the band's genesis.

"We were all on the same volleyball team [in high school] and [Hirsch] walks up to me and says 'Meeks, are you in musical theatre? Okay, you're in the band,'" he laughs.

Once the quartet had parlayed their athletic interests into their musical ones and figured out how to play a few songs together, the next step for the group was obvious: rig a talent competition.

"There was this Axe-stream Fest, so we played the prelims at [our high school] and the other one at Red's. We rigged the vote at [our high school] and won," Hirsch adds.

Everyone bursts out laughing and Meek takes over.

"We played this girl's keg party. That was sort of the band's peak," Meek jokes. "It was her sweet 16 and her parents throw her a kegger. What type of parents are these out there today? Like, 'have a pack of smokes,

little Johnny.' 'Thanks Dad!'"

The Gypsies are nothing, if not easy-going. We banter about the obstacles that face a band like theirs, how talent doesn't matter much to music producers anymore, and how rock and roll is a dying breed. Hirsch pauses for a second.

"I have this grand glory conception of the band in, like, a '70s sense, those great bands of the era. But with the new music industry ..."

Meek chimes in, "It's so much easier for everyone to get their music to everyone. So there's a trillion people trying to get their music, you know. Back then you had to be talented enough to get noticed, but now you can find any Joe Blow's music online."

Still, knowing that their music has to start somewhere before it reaches trillions of people, Hirsch has a pretty good idea of where they can start the attraction phase.

"I'd like us to be played by Sonic to get more fans ... I'd shamelessly whore out the band for money, you know?"

As all of the guys burst out laughing again, I ask where they think the band is headed next.

"To roll a joint," Meek shoots back semi-seriously.

Hirsch has a more comprehensive answer, "Oh, North by Northeast. Submissions are due at the end of the month."

Though their plans are far from being firmed up just yet, The Gypsies are also considering heading out to Toronto to lay down some recordings. With dreams of regular radio rotation, festival exposure, and their demo eventually making it into the hands of someone who recognizes what the band has going for them, The Gypsies are getting there the only way they know how: one show at a time.



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Track and field squads ready to host Golden Bear Open

Golden Bears and Pandas geared up for track and field season to start, as they welcome competitors from across the country

EVAN DAUM
EMERSON CSORBA
Sports Staff

As Friday approaches, so too does another major step for Georgette Reed and the University of Alberta track and field team.

Following months of rigorous training dating back to the fall, the Bears and Pandas track and field athletes are prepared for what should be a promising competition, as track and field athletes from across Canada will gather over a three-day period at the University Pavilion to compete in the Golden Bear Open.

For Reed, the training process has been a long one, dating back to the start of the year.

"We began in the fall with tryouts and have been training consistently since then. The athletes took part in a mini-meet in November and then rested during the break. I feel that we've come far and that we are prepared for the competition."

Alberta's track and field squad will be taking on athletes from across the country, with both CIS and club teams sending athletes to the annual event. Perennial university track and field powerhouses Saskatchewan and Calgary will be among those competing in the three-day event.

"U of C always has a good program. Their sprint program is phenomenal," Reed pointed out.

Saskatchewan comes into the weekend with both their men's and women's teams ranked in the CIS top-10. The lady Huskies are the top-ranked team in the nation, while the men are the number-five team in the country.

While those two teams are sure to have strong squads, the rest of Canada West has seen more parity develop in recent years.

"Everybody is getting more and more competitive; you don't have teams that are one-sided that much anymore. On any given day, a university can come up and win Canada West, so we're going to take them all seriously."

Regina has been among the conference's most improved squads in recent years, seeing their level of competitiveness grow greatly.

"Regina has done really well in the last couple of years, especially their field events and their jumps program. Their pentathlon athletes have done really well," Reed explained.

While the Canada West has seen tremendous growth in the level of competition, Reed remains confident in her team's strengths when matched up with the rest of the competition.

"The strength of our team is definitely the multiple events like pentathlon and jumps," Reed said.

"We're pretty well-rounded. Our sprints are still young, so we may still be a year away from where we want to be with that, but we still expect some good performances."

With the Golden Bear Open nearing, the Track and Field squad will be able to gauge their performance against solid competition. The Open is a three-day event consisting of events ranging from the 60m dash to long-distance running events. The competition provides a tangible assessment of the team's ability, as the meet marks the beginning of the season.

"We'll have meets pretty much straight through up until the 14th of February, and then we'll have a chance to sit down and see what we've got and make our team selection," Reed explained.

The three-day event is the first of two home dates for the Bears and Pandas, with the other event being



FILE PHOTO: PAUL SWANSON

JUMP TIME The Bears and Pandas track and field squads are set to host the annual Golden Bear Open this weekend at the Pavilion, where athletes from a number of CIS and club teams will descend on Edmonton for the three-day event.

the Canada West Championships from February 26–27.

"We're looking to improve on our past results and gauge our progress up to this point in the year. This is one of the big events for us this year."

Reed's squad will feature, once again this season, a number of two-sport athletes. Several Bears football players will be competing on the track team this season, including running-back Smith Wright and offensive lineman Leif Welz.

"We usually get a lot of the fall sports [athletes] who come in and try

track after," Reed explained.

Along with those athletes, several cross-country runners will be moving their skills indoors as part of the track and field squad. Jamie Weikum is among those making the move indoors again this season, after applying his trade both indoors and out last season as well.

Weikum lead the Bears at CIS cross-country nationals this past year in Kingston, where he finished 16th.

On the women's side, the Pandas will also welcome a number of cross-country runners to the track mix,

including sophomore Hayley Degaust, who was the Pandas top finisher at nationals, placing 29th.

While Reed will be looking for strong results from her team over the weekend, the meet is only the beginning of the season and the finishes won't be the biggest indicator of success from the weekend.

"We're looking for commitment. Seeing how everyone bonds, supports each other, cheers for each other, and are really out to support the program, and not just looking at their individual events and results."

ATHLETICS START TIMES

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GOLDEN BEAR OPEN
FRI JAN. 15

5 p.m., Pavilion



GOLDEN BEAR OPEN
SAT. JAN. 16/SUN. JAN. 17

11 a.m., Pavilion



Swim team set for final tuneup before CW championships

NATHAN LIEWICKI
Sports Staff

The Bears and Pandas swim teams will take to the pool this Saturday and Sunday for their annual Green and Gold Senior Invitational.

This weekend's event will mark the first time the U of A's swim teams have competed at home since a meet was held at the Kinsmen Sports Centre back in the first weekend of December. And only one week before that, the Bears and Pandas closed out November with a solid third-place finish at the University Challenge Cup at the University of Toronto.

Fourth-year head coach Bill Humby believes his squads are ready to get back into the swing of racing after an extended break from competition in the pool.

"The purpose of this weekend's meet is really for the athletes to remember what it is like to go all out, and go for speed in races because we've been doing an extensive amount of training since Christmas," Humby explained. "There is always the worry that the athletes will lose a little of their speed and intensity, so it is all about freshening them up via competition."

The 2010 edition of the Invitational will be different than in years past,



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

WATER WINGS Alberta swimmers are now in the stretch drive to the championship season, with the Canada West finals next weekend in Calgary.

as the Bears and Pandas will not be competing against other Canada West universities. Instead a trio of clubs — the Olympian Swim Club (Edmonton), the Silver Tide Swim Club (Sherwood Park), and the Goldfins Swim Club (Saskatoon) — will be sending a number of their best swimmers to compete against the Green and Gold.

Despite the lack of intra-conference competition that Alberta's swimmers will face this weekend, the meet will

give Humby an opportunity to assess his teams and decide on who will swim in each of the three relays at the Canada West Finals in Lethbridge the following weekend.

There is a 4x100m freestyle relay, a 4x200m freestyle relay, and a 4x100m medley relay for both the men and women.

"Relays are a big part of this weekend and we will have four relays in two sessions. Plus, on any one of the relays, we have probably six or eight

swimmers that are pushing toward claiming one of the four spots," Humby noted.

Four strong Pandas, led by fifth-year captain Lauren Gillespie, are expected to excel this weekend, as well as at the conference championship, especially in the 4x200m freestyle relay. Gillespie will be joined by breaststroke specialist Kayla Voytechek — who competed at last summer's World Student Games in Serbia — established butterfly swimmer Kristyn Flanagan, and elite freshman freestyle swimmer Bobbie Mielnichuk.

"Together, those girls are one powerful relay team. Every time they have raced our rivals from UBC this year, they have beaten them," Humby said.

The Bears are led by their captain, Prince George native Brian Yakiwchuk. He's coming off a strong performance at the University Challenge Cup and has medalled in the 1500m Freestyle in each of the last two CIS Championships. 2008–09 U of A Rookie of the Year Josh Au and Scott Stewart are two other solid swimmers for the Bears.

"We have really good depth on both teams and I think we can be really competitive as we head toward nationals," Humby asserted.

Arenas' gun slinging saga another public relations nightmare for NBA

Gilbert Arenas' latest antics have once again put scrutiny on players' conduct



MATT
HIRJI

Sports
Commentary

A decade of deviant behaviour in the NBA was capped off in December when Gilbert Arenas decided the best way to prove a point is with a gun.

After getting into a disagreement with teammate Javaris Crittenton over a gambling debt, Arenas allegedly placed three handguns in his teammates locker with a note indicating that he should choose one. Arenas then proceeded to pull a gun on Crittenton in the team locker room. Not to be outdone, Crittenton brandished a gun of his own. The result was a good old-fashioned duel.

While the showdowns popular in Western movies are hilariously entertaining, the one that took place between Arenas and Crittenton is not a laughing matter.

Thankfully, nobody was hurt in the incident. However, the standoff has left a mark on the NBA — a league already struggling with PR problems.

Professional basketball players have become known for their distinct problem-solving strategies. When fans get rowdy and toss a brew on the court,

NBA players run into the stands and throw a few punches at an unassuming fan. When a gambling debt needs to be paid, players brandish a gun — problem solved.

Once again the general perception of NBA athletes is that of overpaid, unrestrained individuals acting with uninhibited self-interest — the exact opposite of what the league wants its players to be perceived as.

Apparently, these athletes didn't get the memo that they aren't actors in a Hollywood thriller. It may seem strange to some, but threats of violence and duels don't solve problems. While these types of behaviour have become commonplace for athletes, from the fan's perspective, the conduct is absurd and ostracizing.

Arenas' actions off the court have left many fans wondering what brought him to take such drastic measures against Crittenton. But then again, this bizarre behaviour isn't unusual for Arenas.

Since his tenure in the NBA began in 2001, Arenas has been a charismatic, and often outspoken star within the league, known as much for his Twitter and Halo 3 skills as his play on the court at times. Perhaps Arenas didn't realize the real life consequences of pointing a gun at somebody. Or maybe Arenas' jokes about guns just didn't translate from a tweet to the real world.

In any case, Arenas' actions have led to a public relations nightmare for the NBA, with commissioner David Stern left scrambling to solve another image problem for the league.

While a vast majority of players have cleaned up their image and have become involved within their communities, various renegade athletes have acted to erode the clean image that the league has attempted to develop.

In the time it takes to whip out a firearm, Arenas destroyed his own reputation and added another blemish to both the league and Washington Wizards' names. Once again, the general perception of NBA athletes is that of overpaid, unrestrained individuals acting with uninhibited self-interest — the exact opposite of what the league wants its players to be perceived as.

Perhaps the athletes of the NBA need a refresher course on appropriate behaviour; or at the very least, should just stop taking notes from Sergio Leone.

sportssshorts

Compiled by Evan Daum

Pandas Hockey

The undefeated Puck Pandas head west this weekend for a two-game battle against the UBC Thunderbirds in Vancouver. Alberta is coming off a hard-fought sweep of the Calgary Dinos last weekend, and enter the weekend series with a perfect 16-0-0 record — good for a number-three CIS ranking.

UBC enters the weekend with a 5-8-1 record, and sits three points behind fourth-place Regina for the final Canada West playoff position.

The Pandas continue to be lead offensively by the conference's leading scorer Tarin Podloski, who has 30 points thus far. Podloski also leads the conference in goals with 16 — five more than Saskatchewan's Breanne George.

Alberta looks to stay perfect starting Friday night against the unranked T-Birds, with the second game of the West Coast swing going Saturday night.

Pandas Basketball

Following a split this past weekend at the Main Gym, the Pandas Hoopsters travel to Calgary for a set of games against the Dinos. Alberta sits only a half-game up on the Dinos in the standings, making the weekend series a pivotal matchup between the two squads.

Head coach Scott Edwards' team has yet to play Calgary, who come into the weekend with a 6-5 record. The weekend series will be the lone meetings of the season between the Pandas and Dinos. Action tips off in the Stampede City on Friday night, with a Saturday night to round out the weekend.



PETE YEE

Bears Basketball

Looking to find some consistency, the Basket-Bears also travel to Calgary for two games against their provincial rivals. Unlike the Pandas who have the Dinos in the rear-view mirror in the standings, the Bears find themselves looking way up at the division-leading Dinos and their 9-2 record.

Calgary comes into the weekend ranked fourth in the nation, while the Bears are coming off back-to-back losses at home last weekend to open the second half of the season. The matchup is the lone time the two teams will meet during the regular season.

Rookie sensation Jordan Baker and the rest of the Bears look to score an upset this weekend as they take on the Dinos Friday and Saturday night.

Ice Bears to be featured on HNHC

It's become Canada's un-official hockey holiday, and this year the Golden Bears will be featured on CBC's Hockey Day in Canada.

The tenth edition of Hockey Day in Canada is set to hit the airwaves January 30th, and will feature a trio of all-Canadian NHL games to go along with countless other hockey stories over the course of the day.

Legendary former Bears head coach Clare Drake and current head coach Eric Thurston both will be featured as a part of the story, which will highlight the Bears tradition of excellence.

Hockey Day in Canada gets underway on the people's network at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 30 from Stratford, Ontario.



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POP AND ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk



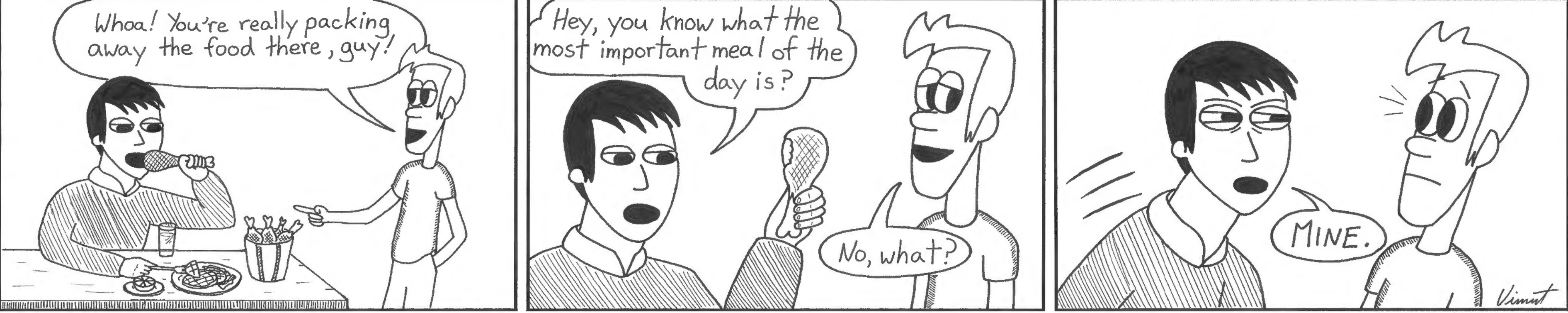
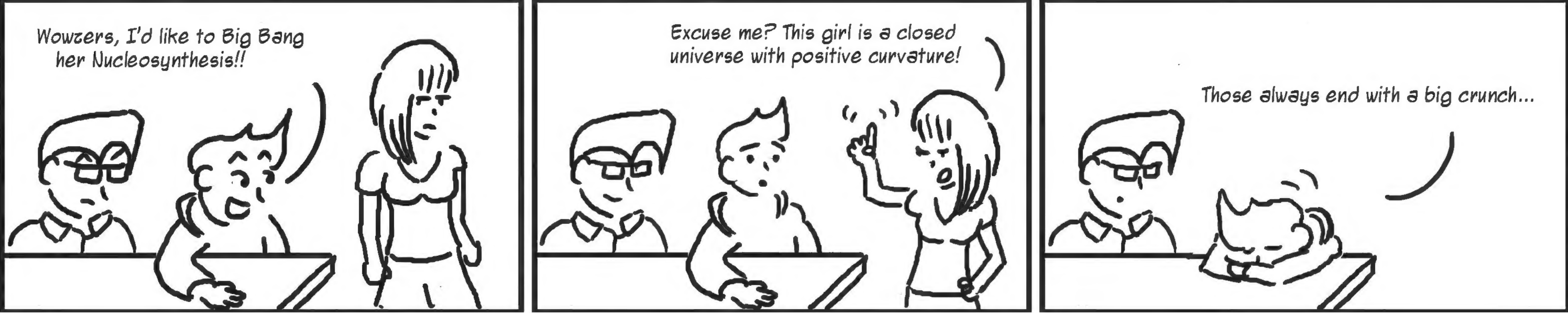
PEOPLE WATCHING by Faye Campbell



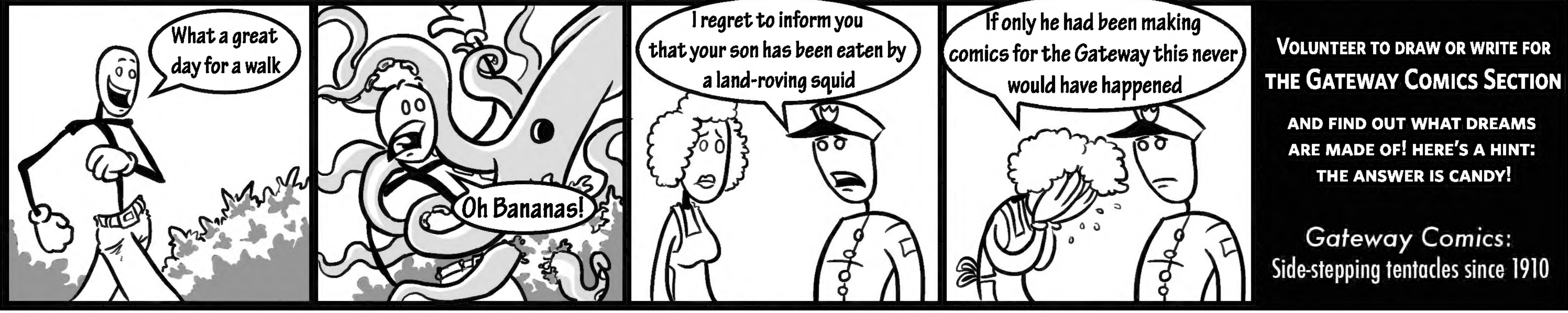
THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



SQUID FOLLIES by Gateway Staff





astronowatch
by Kati Kovacs

Hey chumps and chumpettes! Even though everyone has been back for a while, I do hope each and every one of you had a fantastic holiday. I certainly did! Honeymooning over the Christmas break was a stroke of genius — cheap rates, no crowds, and great weather.

One of the greatest moments of my life so far was a couple of days

after Christmas when Astronoboy and I journeyed down to southern Tunisia and stayed a night in the Hotel Sidi Driss. For those of you who don't know your *Star Wars* history, that's where the scenes in the Lars homestead, where you first meet Luke Skywalker, were filmed. It was so cool! After a couple of bottles of wine, we ran up to the ground above the sunken troglodyte hotel and took pictures of the amazing starry sky.

A few days after that, we were in

London, where I managed to track down and hug the TARDIS. Best honeymoon ever. Oh, and various things about the night sky, blah blah stars...

AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch or check out the FABservatory's site at www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory

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Student wanted - Respite in Spruce Grove for 5 yr old w/ sensory processing disorder, anxiety, and his 2 yr old sis. Flexible 20-30 hours per month \$12/hour. Evenings/weekends. Preferring an ED or early ED, OT, child psych, or nursing student, (or Related field). Must have exc. english skills, transportation, criminal record check, references. Email resume to: alison.dejong@hotmail.com

After nearly two and a half gruelling months, the clash for moustachioed supremacy has finally reached its gripping conclusion. You voted on our website, and the *Gateway* can now proudly announce that the winner and subsequent King of All That is Moustache is:

Nick Frost, Managing Editor

Go forth, mighty cultivator of facial hair, and indulge in the many benefits of being a champion of moustache — or, y'know, shave it all off and go get your dignity back.

Kudos, as well, must go to Opinion Editor David Johnston for being a valiant competitor (or stubborn jackass, depending if you're Nick or not) in his second-place effort, as well as all the other titans who fell before them.



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